Glen R. Dorrough
UNITED STATES COURT REPORTER

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19		CONTENTS	Page No.
20	OPENING STATEMENTS:		
21	By Mr. Edmondson		
22	By Mr. Ryan 42		
23	WITNESSES CALLED ON BEHALF OF PLAINTIFFS:		
24	CANON MILES TOLBERT:		
25	Direct Examinati	on by Mr. Edmondson	65

being overapplied and are needed for plant growth.

THE COURT: Well, but here they're focusing on E. coli
and bacteria, not on phosphorus; correct?

MR. RYAN: I'm sorry, Your Honor?

THE COURT: In this proceeding are they not focusing on bacteria as opposed to phosphorus?

MR. RYAN: Yes, Your Honor. No, that's absolutely right, but we're talking about what the land needs and what's being overapplied.

THE COURT: Right, right.

MR. RYAN: I think their argument only goes to the phosphorus, to the one element of phosphorus. It does not address the other twelve elements which I say are needed for plant growth and are beneficial to the crops and plants and pastures and forage. And I don't think there's any question but that there has been an overapplication of litter on some or many farms. That's not an issue in our book. I'm certainly not arguing that in terms of phosphorus.

Your Honor, these are the defendants, there's 13 of them. They're in seven, if you will, if you disregard affiliated companies, there's seven companies. The plaintiffs want to treat us as if we were one homogenous group. And if they can show that the defendants, plural, apply bacteria somehow to the waterways and that makes all the defendants liable. These defendants are competitors of one another, Your